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C.I.A.'s Strange Actions

Writing in a national magazine, Reporters David Wise and Thomas B. Ross declared that four American fliers, all of them from Birmingham, Ala., definitely were under contract with the United States Central Intelligence Agency when they were killed in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba but that the federal government and the C.I.A. lied repeatedly to the families of these men and, in effect, still have not corrected their lies nor revealed the truth.

Aside from the fact that the C.I.A. apparently approved the statement of a government official at that time that "the government has an inherent right to lie" and adopted the policy of doing so, the C.I.A.'s action in the Bay of Pigs invasion and in some events since then has been strange. The article stated the four fliers "died

in combat at the Bay of Pigs."

It might be understandable that the C.I.A. would employ fliers as a part of its investigation activities — the business of obtaining information. If the C.I.A. was hiring the men to engage in actual combat, it would indeed seem strange, since the function of the intelligence agency is to gain information and not to carry on war.